Compare this information to your original essential belief statement?

What has changed and why?

All the points that I made in my essential belief statement still stand. The difference is that I have solidified my calling to work with elementary aged children. Also something that I noted to work on was public speaking and I think that throughout this course I’ve gotten much better at speaking in front of people.

Respond to the three essential questions listed in the syllabus.

* Why do you plan a unit and supporting lessons utilizing the backward designing model?  
  Backward design is so important in creating a unit that covers all aspects of the learning that you are trying to teach. Starting with what you want students to know FIRST, then coming of with ways to help students learn this will be much more affective than if you came up with the assignments along the way not knowing what each student will get out of each lesson by the end of the unit.
* Why differentiate classroom instruction and assessments using current theories and pedagogies?  
  It is necessary to focus on differentiating classes based on the students you have and incorporating the multiple intelligences. Teachers need to be considering how students learn and how their lessons can engage every type of learner. If a teacher is only teaching to the verbal learners, their kinesthetic leaners could slack off, get bored and not want to learn.
* How will you know if students clearly understand the content and have achieved the desired results?

Through formative and summative assessment. Formative assessment is not graded and helps the teacher know where students are in their understanding and summative shows what students have mastered. I think it is important to keep the learning as the most important aspect in a class. If students aren’t doing well during the formative, it will be crucial that as the teacher, I go back and find out what I can do to help them better understand.

What grade do you deserve and why?

I think I deserve an A for a grade because I have worked hard to participate as much as possible in this class and to complete assignments when they are due. I enjoyed taking this section of practicum. It was a lot of fun and I’m going to miss it.

How does what you learned change your thinking?

Throughout this course, I have further considered how important it is to incorporate all types of learners and as many intelligences as possible into the lessons being taught. After learning backward design, I now know how beneficial it is to create lessons by this theory to be able to give students full understanding and mastery of a topic.